Response
Serial No. 09/910,601
Page 2


**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:


1.      (Currently Amended) An integrated telecommunications network element comprising:

a plurality of add-drop-multiplexers, each ~~multiplexer~~ add-drop-multiplexer having one or more communications ports, each communications port carrying communications traffic ~~that may include~~ including one or more port tributaries;

a digital cross-connect configured to route communications traffic among the port tributaries;

and

a controller configured to create one or more logical tributaries between the digital cross-connect and the communications ports by mapping one or more port tributaries into a logical tributary.


2.      (Original) The network element of claim 1 wherein:

the controller is configured to route working traffic from a port through a logical tributary to the digital cross-connect.


3.      (Original) The network element of claim 2 wherein:

the controller is responsive to one or more provisioning commands from a user by provisioning cross-connections between logical tributaries.


4.      (Original) The network element of claim 2 wherein:

the controller is responsive to a provisioning command from a user to provision working and protection paths from one port to another by determining the switching status of port tributaries.


381162-1

PAGE 4/19 * RCVD AT 9/9/2005 2:30:15 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/24 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:732 530 9808 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-08

Response
Serial No. 09/910,601
Page 3

5.      (Original) The network element of claim 2 wherein:

the controller is responsive to one or more commands received from a user
by establishing a port protection group.


6.      (Original) The network element of claim 5 wherein:

the controller is responsive to one or more provisioning commands from a
user by determining whether a port associated with a particular port
tributary is a member of a port protection group.


7.      (Original) The network element of claim 6 wherein:

the controller is responsive to one or more provisioning commands from a
user  by determining what type of port protection group the port is a
member of.


8.      (Original) The network element of claim 6 wherein:

the controller is responsive to one or more provisioning commands from a
user by determining the state of protection switching.


9.      (Original) The network element of claim 2 wherein:

the controller is responsive to one or more commands received from a user
by establishing a path protection group.


10.     (Original) The network element of claim 9 wherein:

the controller is responsive to one or more provisioning commands from a
user by determining whether a path associated with a particular port
tributary is a member of a path protection group.


11.     (Original) The network element of claim 10 wherein:

381162-1

Response
Serial No. 09/910,601
Page 4

the controller is responsive to one or more provisioning commands from a user by determining what type of path protection group the port is a member of.

12.   (Original) The network element of claim 10 wherein:
the controller is responsive to one or more provisioning commands from a user by determining the state of protection switching.

13.   (Original) The network element of claim 2 wherein:
the controller is responsive to commands from a user directed toward a logical tributary by identifying a port tributary corresponding to the logical tributary.

14.   (Original) The network element of claim 2 wherein:
the controller is responsive to commands from a user directed toward a logical tributary by determining which of a plurality of port tributaries is to be employed as a working tributary.

15.   (Original) The network element of claim 2 wherein:
the controller is responsive to commands from a user directed toward a logical tributary by determining which of a plurality of port tributaries is to be employed as a protection tributary.

16.   (Original) The network element of claim 2 wherein:
the controller is responsive to a port access identifier by retrieving network equipment information from the access identifier.

17.   (Original) The network element of claim 2 wherein:

381162-1

Response
Serial No. 09/910,601
Page 5

the controller is responsive to a tributary access identifier by retrieving network equipment information from the access identifier.

18.    (Original) The network element of claim 2 wherein:
the controller is responsive to one or more user commands by establishing an atomic cross connection.

19.    (Original) The network element of claim 2 wherein:
the controller is responsive to one or more user commands by modifying a provisionable set of path protection groups.

20.    (Original) The network element of claim 2 wherein:
the controller is responsive to one or more user commands by provisioning a cross-connection between logical tributaries.

21.    (Currently Amended) In a multi-port telecommunications network element, a method for switching traffic comprising the steps of:
A) receiving communications traffic at one communications port of a plurality of add-drop-multiplexers, each ~~multiplexer~~ add-drop-multiplexer having one or more communications ports, each communications port carrying communications traffic ~~that may include~~ including one or more port tributaries;
B) routing the communications traffic from a port tributary through a digital cross-connect configured to route communications traffic among the port tributaries;
C) a controller creating one or more logical tributaries between the digital cross-connect and the communications ports by mapping one or more port tributaries into at least one logical tributary; and

381162-1

Response
Serial No. 09/910,601
Page 6

D) the controller provisioning traffic among port tributaries in response to
commands to provision traffic among logical tributaries.

22.    (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein:

E) the controller routes working traffic from a port through a logical tributary
to the digital cross-connect.

23.    (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein:

F) the controller determines the switching status of port tributaries in
response to a provisioning command from a user to provision working and
protection paths from one port to another.

24.    (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein:

G) the controller establishes a port protection group in response to one or
more commands received from a user.

25.    (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein:

H) the controller determines whether a port associated with a particular port
tributary is a member of a port protection group in response to one or more
provisioning commands from a user.

26.    (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein:

I) the controller determines what type of port protection group a port is a
member of in response to one or more provisioning commands from a user.

27.    (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein:

J) the controller determines the state of protection switching in response to
one or more provisioning commands from a user.

381162-1

Response
Serial No. 09/910,601
Page 7

28.     (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein:

K) the controller establishes a path protection group in response to one or more commands received from a user.

29.     (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein:

L) the controller determines whether a path associated with a particular port tributary is a member of a path protection group in response to one or more provisioning commands from a user.

30.     (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein:

M) the controller determines what type of path protection group the port is a member of in response to one or more provisioning commands from a user.

31.     (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein:

N) the controller determines the state of protection switching in response to one or more provisioning commands from a user.

32.     (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein:

O) the controller identifies a port tributary corresponding to the logical tributary in response to commands from a user directed toward a logical tributary.

33.     (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein:

P) the controller determines which of a plurality of port tributaries is to be employed as a working tributary in response to commands from a user directed toward a logical tributary.

34.     (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein:

361162-1

Response
Serial No. 09/910,601
Page 8

Q) the controller determines which of a plurality of port tributaries is to be employed as a protection tributary in response to commands from a user directed toward a logical tributary.

35.    (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein:

R) the controller retrieves network equipment information from a port access identifier.

36.    (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein:

S) the controller retrieves network equipment information from a tributary access identifier.

37.    (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein:

T) the controller by establishing an atomic cross connection in response to one or more user commands.

38.    (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein:

U) the controller modifies a provisionable set of path protection groups in response to one or more user commands.

39.    (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein:

W) the controller provisions a cross-connection between logical tributaries in response to one or more user commands.

381162-1